

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6641

BILL NUMBER: HB 1069

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 17, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Straight-Ticket Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hinkle

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight-ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except for candidates for presidential electors.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Election Commission would have to approve of any new software needed for the direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems to accomplish the requirement of the bill. It is likely that the Election Commission would be able to examine and approve new software within the course of a regular meeting of the Commission. The Commission met six times during CY 2009.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill would require changes made to paper ballot, ballot card, and direct recording electronic methods. With respect to ballot cards (used for optical scan voting systems), the removal of instructions for voting a straight ticket and the straight-ticket indication ovals by the devices of the major parties would require a ballot reconfiguration. Their removal could reduce printing costs of the ballots overall. Ballot cards generally cost approximately \$0.32 per card.

DRE voting systems must currently have either a push button (on older DREs) or an icon on a touchscreen system for voting a straight ticket. It is unknown whether the removal of straight-party voting ability could be accomplished via reprogramming existing machines or if new software would have to be purchased. New software purchases would require additional expenditures of an indeterminable amount.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.